

CITY CLUB OF MONTREAL.

Banquet to Sir Francis Hincks,  
May 31st, 1883.

75  
Rutherford

"How youngly he began to serve his country ;  
How long continued."

CORIOLANUS.

## BANQUET

-- TO --

# SIR FRANCIS HINCKS,

*CITY CLUB, MONTREAL.*

MONTREAL, May 31st, 1883.

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The Montreal City Club is a non-political institution, and gathers to itself many of the leading literary men and merchants of the city. All kinds and shades of politics, and all classes of business are represented there. Sir Francis Hincks is the President, and to very many members his almost daily presence is a great delight. His clear memory, stretching back for half a century, corrects many an historical blunder. It occurred to some of the members that a dinner in honour of their President would be an appreciable mark of their esteem for him personally, and their recognition of the credit due to one who has devoted much time and great abilities to the service of his country. The following pages record what was said and done on that memorable evening.

A. J. B.

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Mr. THOS. CRAMP occupied the Chair, and was supported on his right by the guest of the evening, Sir Francis Hincks, K.C.B., Mr. Thos. White, M.P., Mr. George Hague and Mr. Fred. Hague, and on his left by Mr. T. S. Brown, Mr. David Law, Hon. Wm. McDougall, Q.C., C.B., Rev. A. J. Bray and Mr. Donald Macmaster, Q.C., M.P. The Vice-Chair was occupied by Mr. Andrew Robertson, and among those present were Messrs.

F. W. Henshaw,  
B. J. Coghlin,  
Wm. Angus,  
J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P.  
Edward Murphy,  
James Stewart,  
Wm. Kinloch,  
E. K. Greene,  
G. W. Craig,  
James Darling,  
J. N. Greenshields,  
John Kerry,  
W. H. Kerr, Q.C.,  
C. A. Geoffrion, Q.C.,  
Edward Carter, Q.C.,  
James Crathern,  
Captain Ormond,  
R. P. McLea,  
John Rankin,  
J. A. Ready,  
G. W. F. Carter,  
W. S. Walker,  
John Macfarlane,  
C. R. Hosmer,  
John L. Morris,

James A. Cantlie,  
John McLean,  
John Beattie,  
J. G. Bellhouse,  
Edward Evans,  
A. F. Gault,  
S. Finlay,  
Jonathan Hodgson,  
W. H. Turner,  
J. P. Rose,  
R. White,  
S. E. Dawson,  
W. M. Ramsay,  
C. C. Foster,  
L. H. Boulton,  
M. P. Ryan,  
Gilbert Scott,  
C. Cassils,  
W. Cassils,  
W. W. Ogilvie,  
W. Farrell,  
Thos. Trimble,  
John Ogilvy,  
R. B. Angus,  
Wm. Clendinneng,

John Livingstone,  
Hon Peter Mitchell,  
Henry Bulmer,  
S. Coulson,  
D. Graham,  
S. H. Ewing,  
J. Wolffe,  
Thos. Craig,  
Wm. O'Brien,  
Perceval Tibbs,  
James O'Brien,  
P. S. Stevenson,  
S. C. Stevenson,  
John Atkins,  
J. H. Plummer,  
A. C. Camming,  
W. C. Tower,  
— Batterbury,  
C. N. Armstrong,  
William Stephen,  
J. C. Stewart, Ottawa,  
J. C. Rose,  
W. McDougall,  
L. N. Benjamin.

After the good things had been freely discussed,

The CHAIRMAN rose and proposed the first toast of the evening, "Her Gracious Majesty the Queen," and in doing so, referred to the great anxiety that had recently been caused by the rumours that Her Majesty was seriously indisposed. These rumours, however, he was glad to say, were without serious foundation, but he would ask them, in singing the National Anthem, to emphasize the words, "Long live our Gracious Queen."

The toast was honoured amidst the greatest enthusiasm, those present singing the National Anthem.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the toast of "The Governor-General," said the Marquis of Lorne was not only the representative of Her Majesty, but he had married a Royal Princess, in whose welfare all Canadians felt the greatest interest. He belonged, also, to a very ancient and noble Scottish house, which gave him an additional claim to our regard. It was understood that their departure would take place before the close of the year, and he was convinced he expressed the general sentiment, when wishing them all prosperity wherever their lot was cast. He asked leave to make an addition to the toast, and proposed "His Excellency the Governor-General, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise."

This toast was also received with great enthusiasm.

"OUR GUEST."

MR. CRAMP, in rising to propose the toast of the evening, said he desired to express his thanks to the members of the Club for the honour of presiding at this banquet to their President. The City Club was young, but its President was one of the most distinguished men in Canada. (Cheers.) Were he to attempt anything like an adequate reference to his public services, it would be a sort of history of Canada during a very long and eventful period. His own recollection dated back nearly forty years, and at that time, in 1844, Sir Francis was in Montreal editing a very influential journal, the *Pilot*. He had heard Sir Francis say not long ago that he was indebted to his connection with the press for the principal opportunities of his early career, and he (Mr. Cramp) would say that this fact placed them all under additional obligations to that important and powerful profession. (Hear, hear.) The time he was now referring to was a stormy period, and we now enjoyed what might be called a great calm. But it was well to recollect the struggles that had gone before, and we had now at his right hand one of the old pilots who had weathered the storm, and, having carried them through the dangers of the voyage, they rejoiced now to meet him in this snug harbour. (Cheers.) These were the early days of responsible Government, which had not been conceded without great difficulties, while there existed both in England and Canada, among powerful politicians, a great unwillingness to bring it thoroughly

into practice ; and perhaps some of the most important services of Mr. Hincks in those times were his long sustained and vigorous support of the claim for the constitutional system, into the struggle for which he threw himself with characteristic energy. (Cheers.) It was right in these quiet times to remember the fighting days gone by, and those to whom we owe in a large measure the privileges we now enjoy. He said these were fighting days, and it only required a passing reference to the Drummond and the Moffatt and DeBleury elections, during Lord Metcalfe's administration and the great party struggle which then went on, previous to the appointment of Lord Elgin. They would many of them recollect the day on which the Royal assent was given to the Rebellion Losses Bill, the events of that night when the Parliament Buildings were burnt. Perhaps some of them were out the following night when not over delicate attentions were paid to our guest of this evening and his colleagues, Mr. Lafontaine and others—(laughter); then the progress of Lord Elgin to old Government House, by Notre Dame Street, and the not very effective cavalry escort when he left after receiving the address of Parliament. On the other side of the river were marshalled the 'Prairie Hens,' as they were called, commanded by their old friend Captain Fortin, who was now doing more peaceful and very valuable service in promoting the telegraph system of the Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf. (Cheers.) If he referred to these matters it was principally to show the difficulties which then surrounded practical politics, and thus to bring out the extent and value of the services which their friend had rendered to Canada in face of obstacles that would have seemed almost insurmountable. There could be no doubt whatever that to Sir Francis Hincks we were indebted for the introduction of our railway system on a comprehensive scale, and especially in respect of the Grand Trunk Railway. (Cheers.) It had been always a matter of surprise to him that this fact had not been more generally recognized in the city of Montreal, which had, without doubt, been enormously benefitted by the increased facilities for travel and commerce thus created. He could recollect going to Toronto by stage when it sometimes took four days and three nights of incessant travel, and later, when Parliament sat in Toronto, which was best reached via Rouse's Point, Burlington, Schenectady, Niagara and Hamilton. The development of trade, consequent upon

railways, was simply incalculable. All honor, therefore, to the man who, above all others, had been instrumental in bringing about these results. (Cheers.) Then we had the Clergy Reserve Question, a most difficult and complex matter, in which Sir Francis had been in the front of the battle, demanding, and in the end securing, the right of Canadians to settle it. The struggle was arduous, but the result was a settlement which has received general concurrence. (Cheers.) The abolition of Seigniorial Tenure was another great reform we owe, in a large measure, to Sir Francis Hincks. The negotiations which ended in reciprocity with the United States, were largely carried on by him, and finally concluded when he was Prime Minister, and, in that capacity, accompanied Lord Elgin to Washington. The establishment of the steam mail service with Great Britain was the work of the Hincks' Administration, and, in this matter, their friend had given support and effect to the exertions of the Hon. John Young, with whom the scheme originated, and to whose energy and patriotism they owed so much. (Cheers.) He could go on to mention a host of important matters dealt with to great public advantage during these busy years, did time permit. But a period was reached when the great abilities of Sir Francis obtained Imperial recognition. It would be interesting to read, in this connection, some extracts from official correspondence which Sir Francis had kindly placed in his hands. The first letter was from Sir William Molesworth, Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 17th August, 1855 :—

“ COLONIAL OFFICE,  
17th August, 1855. }

“ MY DEAR HINCKS—The Office of Governor-in-Chief of Barbadoes and the Windward Islands will be immediately vacant. If it would suit you to accept it, it would give me very great pleasure to submit to the Queen the name of a statesman so distinguished in Colonial administration as yourself. Lord Palmerston joins me in the wish that you may be able to undertake this office.

“ Believe me,

“ Yours very truly,

“ WILLIAM MOLESWORTH.

“ P.S.—The salary is £4,000 a year.

“ To F. Hincks, Esq.”

(Cheers.) The second, written a few days later, proved what had long been known to the intimate friends of Sir Francis, that the offer had been entirely unexpected, and that he had asked for time to

consider it. The third, also from Sir William Molesworth, contained this sentence :—"I have just received a letter from the Queen entirely approving of your being appointed to the office of Governor of Barbadoes." (Cheers.) The next was dated 9th October, 1861, from the Duke of Newcastle, the distinguished nobleman who, they would recollect, had accompanied the Prince of Wales to Canada. It offered Sir Francis the government of British Guiana, and said :—"I trust that this appointment will be acceptable to you, as affording, on the one hand, a wide and important field of activity and usefulness, and on the other a token of Her Majesty's approval of the energy and ability with which you have administered the Government of Barbadoes and Windward Islands." (Cheers.) Then followed one from the same nobleman, dated 1st July, 1862 :—

" DOWNING STREET, 31st July, 1862.

" MY DEAR MR HINCKS,—It gives me very great pleasure to inform you that the Queen has been graciously pleased, on my recommendation, to confer upon you the distinction of the Third Class of the Order of the Bath. Your name appeared in a recent *Gazette*.

" I assure you I consider this mark of Her Majesty's approval honorably won by very valuable and continued service in several colonies of the Empire.

" Believe me,

" Yours very sincerely,

" NEWCASTLE.

" Governor Hincks."

The next was from the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, and shows that Sir Francis had been asked to retain the government of British Guiana beyond the usual period. Then follows one dated 8th December, 1868, from the same nobleman, announcing that the Queen had been pleased to enlarge the existing Order of St. Michael and St. George, and to extend it to all the British colonies, and adding : "I have had great pleasure in submitting your name to Her Majesty for the dignity of a Knight Commander of that Order. Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve that recommendation. It has been very satisfactory to me to mark my recognition of your services in more than one important position by including your name in the first list of appointments which has been submitted to the Queen on the extension of the Order." (Cheers.) Next in this interesting series is a despatch from Earl Granville, from which I take the following extract :—"The records of this department

afford abundant evidence of the zeal and indefatigable activity with which you have devoted yourself to advance the interests of the colony under your Government, and I do not doubt that the approval of those services by Her Majesty's Government will be in entire accordance with the feelings of the inhabitants of British Guiana. (Cheers.) The last paper is a Colonial Office despatch, dated 2nd April, 1869 :—

“ DOWNING STREET,

“ 2nd April, 1869.

“ Sir,—I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that he has had before him your Despatch No. 29, of 23rd January, enclosing copies of the various addresses presented to you by the inhabitants of British Guiana on the occasion of your departure from that colony.

“ Lord Granville has read these addresses with great pleasure, evincing as they do the satisfaction which your administration of the government of British Guiana appears to have given to all classes of the community.

“ His Lordship has noticed with especial interest the last of these addresses, in which allusion is made to the improvements effected by you in the management and general administration of the negro villages of the colony; and it has occurred to him that possibly the policy so successfully adopted by you in British Guiana might be applied with advantage to the other negro populations of the West Indian colonies, which have formed themselves into similar groups. I am desired, therefore, to request that you will favor His Lordship with your opinion upon this subject, giving a short account of the general system pursued by you, and pointing out any particular regulations or provisions of law that you may consider generally applicable to negro populations in the West Indies.

“ I am, sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ F. R. SANDFORD.

“ Sir Francis Hincks, K.C.M.G.”

After this most honourable career in the Imperial service, Sir Francis again returned to Canada, and although there are no politics in the City Club, I think I may be permitted to say of Sir John A. Macdonald that he possesses great political sagacity as well as distinguished ability. [Cheers.] He lost no time in securing the services of our guest, offering him the position of Finance Minister in his cabinet. There were no great loan questions or important changes of policy in view, but an opportunity soon presented itself for Sir Francis to again render us important aid in adjusting the terms of renewal for Bank Charters, and in the settlement of the silver question, as the country was suffering in a most vexatious way from a depreciated currency. You all remember how well this was

managed, and we ought not to forget to whom we were indebted. [Cheers.] Not long after, Sir Francis retired from public life altogether, and is here, I rejoice to say, in good health and vigor. Looking at him this evening, I thought of the description applied to a great historical character—"His eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated." [Cheers.] This was said of the great Hebrew Law-giver, after a busy life, at the age of 120 years. Perhaps we could not expect in these degenerate days, when the wear and tear of public men was greater, that such a period might be reached, but there was no one present who would desire to place any limit upon the period during which we hoped still to have the advantage of our friend's matured experience, sound judgment and vigorous intellect in the intercourse of daily life, and as an observer and guide of public affairs. [Cheers.] They all entertained for Sir Francis the highest esteem, respect and regard. He wished to assure him these sentiments were in their hearts, and the outward manifestations would now be given in the bumper toast he proposed to his health. [Loud cheers.]

SIR FRANCIS HINCKS then arose amid vociferous cheering, and said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—Accept my heartfelt thanks for the honor which you have just done me, and for the sentiments you have expressed. I have on many occasions, during a long public career, received similar demonstrations from my friends; but I can say with perfect truth that I have never had any that has given me such gratification as this manifestation, because I feel that it is one of personal regard. I know that there are round this table gentlemen entertaining a great variety of political opinions, for this is not a political club. I had no idea that such an honor would be offered to me, and I was very much surprised when I first heard of it, and I confess for some little time afterwards I was much embarrassed as to what I should say upon such an occasion. I happened to mention to a friend, who knew of the intention of giving me this entertainment, that I really did not know what to say on the occasion. I felt that I could not approach general topics or political subjects. I was told:—"Oh! There is no difficulty at all in the matter. You can speak on the subject of clubs, and show what has been the influence of clubs." Well, I really thought it was a very rational topic, so I went to work to study the subject of clubs. I went back to one frequented by Shakespeare, and the club named Buttons, of which

Addison and Steele were members, and which is often mentioned in the *Spectator*. I found another club that Ben Jonson belonged to, and which I believe was called "The Devil's Club." Then, coming to modern times, I found a great many varieties of clubs in the City of London—the University clubs, such as the Oxford and Cambridge, and the great political clubs—Brookes and the Carlton, and the Conservative and the Reform clubs, the Naval and Military—in short they were very numerous. And then there was an important club in the City of London—the City Club—where they welcomed strangers when they came to London, by no means the common usage with London clubs. I was introduced to that club thirty odd years ago. Well, a few days ago, when I was in conversation with our worthy chairman, I found that he intended to refer to my political life, and as he did not know much about my career in the West Indies, I ventured to communicate to him some documents on that subject, especially as I had seen notices in the papers about some letters addressed to Sir Charles Bagot, the first Governor of Canada, under whom I held office in 1842. A number of those had been sent to the archives, and I have been in communication with Douglas Brymner, who had taken a lively interest in our archives, and obtained the letters. I may tell you that a very short time after I accepted office I addressed a letter to Governor-General Sir Charles Bagot, giving my advice that the whole of the Finance Department should be re-organized. There was at that time no record of how the money representing the public debt had been expended. There were no books kept, and I suggested that a regular statement should be prepared, and a system of double-entry book-keeping be established, and that we should go to work and put the accounts of the whole Province into proper shape. What we had to do was to find out the indebtedness, and discover the best way we could, honestly, how that money had been expended. The system suggested by me was adopted, and, being found satisfactory, it has been ever since followed. I was led to collect this correspondence for the purpose of depositing it in the archives of the Province, and when in conversation, as I have said, with Mr. Cramp, I thought I would let him see what these letters were. You have heard these letters read by him to-night. Now, no one could be more surprised than I was when I received the letter, which has been read to you, from Sir William Molesworth. I was travelling in Ireland, not dreaming of

any appointment in the Imperial service. There is one other circumstance with which Mr. Cramp was not acquainted. In the year 1858, a very distinguished American, Mr. Charles Tappan, who took a leading part in advocating the abolition of slavery, came to Barbadoes to enquire as to the effect of the emancipation of the negroes there. I think it was considered that emancipation in the West Indies was a total failure. I wrote and gave a letter to Mr. Tappan, in which I held that nothing could be more successful than the emancipation of the negroes in the West Indies. Mr. Tappan published that letter, and in 1859, partly in consequence of that, I was called upon by the Anti-Slavery Society, at a meeting in London, at which Lord Brougham presided, and asked to move the principal resolution on the subject, and upon that occasion I had the honor to give expression to my sentiments, and proved, as I contend I did, that free labor was infinitely cheaper than slave. I was able to state from my own knowledge, that no greater mistake could be made than to suppose that negroes are naturally indolent and unwilling to work. In the colony of British Guiana—in which there were a great number of Chinese and coolies from India—the heavy work was really performed by the negroes. After my return to Canada from the West Indies, there was much misunderstanding as to the circumstances under which I accepted office. I returned after an absence from this country of fifteen years, and other men had got into public life; and after an absence of fifteen years, my being called to an important department of the Government was not generally favored; and, I know, no doubt, it was thought by many that I had some personal object to gain by it. Now, I wish to be understood that in accepting office in this country I actually made a personal sacrifice. I have been frequently sneered at as being an Imperial pensioner. The pension which I had granted to me is that of every Colonial Governor who has served a certain period, and it requires him to serve his full period in order to get his full pension, and, if I had at the time in question, served another term, I would have been entitled to the full pension of £1,000 sterling. At that time I had a fair chance of getting another governorship, and I have every reason to believe I would have got it. When I returned to Canada from the West Indies I came merely on a three months' tour, and I had no idea that Sir John Rose was going to vacate office. I found, however, that Sir John Rose was determined to retire, and that all the bank charters had expired, and

the policy of the Government, with regard to these bank charters, most unquestionably did not meet the approval of the House of Commons, and there was very great difficulty standing in the way. It was conveyed to me that there was a great desire on the part of gentlemen connected with the banking interest that I should undertake the office. Then there was besides the question of the silver nuisance which required the prompt action of the Government, and my conviction that I could aid in the satisfactory settlement of these questions was my chief inducement to accept office. Salaries of ministers were then considerably less than at present, and during the whole of my incumbency one-half of my Canadian salary was deducted from my Imperial pension, which reduced it nearly to nothing. I was aware that this would be the case. I have no reason to find fault with that rule; but it is the fact that I had to lose one-half of my salary during my three years of office; and, moreover, during that period I had no less than three elections, and two of them were under very peculiar circumstances. As a fact, before the elections of 1872 I had given my resignation to Sir John A. Macdonald, on private considerations. I was getting advanced in life and health, was suffering from the late sessions of the House of Commons, and I was advised by my physician to retire from public life. It was my positive intention to leave the Government, but I could not do so honourably just at the time of a general election, when reports of all kinds would have been circulated, so I determined to go through the campaign with Sir John A. Macdonald. I had withdrawn from my constituency of North Renfrew, where I believe I should have been re-elected if I had stood. In the course of the campaign it was found that there was a difficulty in getting a candidate for South Brant, and I really entered into the contest as a forlorn hope. After my defeat there Mr. Hilyard Cameron offered to give way to me in Cardwell, which I declined, and I was very much surprised at the intimation that I had been elected for Vancouver without my knowledge. I have troubled you with these remarks as explanatory of my course after returning to Canada. As to my public career, it was chiefly run at a much earlier period. It is considerably over forty years since I commenced my public life, and it has been my fortune to live in a great number of different places, viz.: 10 years in Toronto, 2 in Kingston, 6 in Montreal, 2 in Toronto for the second time, 4 in Quebec, 13 in the West Indies, 4 in Ottawa and 10 in

Montreal for the second time. I have been a householder at all these places. I have gone through a long career, and met with a great number of statesmen. It is true that there is not one living of the earlier ones with whom I was associated, and of the latter period, only Sir Wm. Richards and Hon. Mr. Chauveau. Well, I have entirely gone out of public life and politics. I say it is gratifying to me to know that having been associated with politicians of both sides, I have never been associated with one on either side that I do not believe had the best interests of Canada at heart. I have heard a good deal of Canada First. For myself I have always been for Canada First, as have all those with whom I have acted. I have long since, for ten years at least, to be a party man. There are a great many crying out about the disadvantages of party, and about doing away with it. I look upon that as sheer nonsense. It is perfectly absurd. You have parties in the United States, you have parties everywhere, where the Government is responsible to the people. You must have parties; you cannot get on without party; and moreover, it is absolutely necessary for men who belong to a party to respect party ties and to be faithful to party. At the same time there are times when coalitions are necessary. I know it is thought by some to be immoral to enter into coalitions. But I say that some of the greatest events in England have been the result of coalitions,—for instance, the restoration of Charles the Second in 1660 was the result of a coalition; and the revolution of 1688 was the result of a coalition. It never could have been accomplished without it. Lord Aberdeen, on the occasion of the formation of a Coalition Government under his auspices, used language which I never can forget. He defended himself with something like these words: "I never could have approached Lord John Russell if I had not believed that he was a Conservative, and he never would have joined me if he had not believed that I was a Liberal." There are times when coalitions become necessary, when three parties arise, and it is the duty of two parties to coalesce for the interest of the country. I became a party to a coalition, and I never shall regret it. I wrote to my distinguished friend, the late Hon. Robert Baldwin—and if there was any man who had a dislike to coalitions it was Baldwin—and yet he admitted that coalition was necessary under the circumstances in which we were placed, and approved of the course I adopted. With regard to the settlement of the vexed question of the Clergy

Reserves, referred to by the Chairman, it is well known that that question was the means of breaking up the Government formed in 1852. I have no hesitation in saying that the Lafontaine-Baldwin Government could not have settled the Clergy Reserves question, because there were two members, Lafontaine and Viger, and they would have influenced a third, who would never have consented to secularization. They were, however, willing to join us in obtaining the repeal of the Imperial Act, without which no action was possible in Canada. My efforts to procure that repeal are on record. Before, however, it was obtained, Messrs. Lafontaine and Viger had retired from public life, and it was clearly understood that secularization would be supported by all the members of the administration, of which I was the leader. I have avoided touching to-night upon any of the questions of the present day upon which differences of opinion can arise; and it was gratifying to me the other day to see the address presented to the Governor-General, from which I want to read one sentence:—"The success of your Excellency's efforts has fortified us in the belief that a full development of our national sentiment is perfectly consistent with the closest and most loyal connection with the Empire." The address containing these words was moved by Sir John A. Macdonald, the leader of the Government, and seconded by Mr. Blake, the leader of the Opposition. Well, gentlemen, we hear a good deal in these times about Independence, and I confess that before I read that address, I could hardly venture to name the word Independence on this occasion, fearing lest I should be treating on a party question; but when the leader of the Government and the leader of the Opposition are agreed in the sentiment there expressed, it must be perfectly clear that the question is not a party one. Now, I am not so ignorant as to think that we are all of one mind as to which is the best system of government—the Monarchical or the Republican. It is natural for some to prefer the Republican. I confess I am not one of them. What I want to point out—and I wish you to take notice of it, for there are, perhaps, some young men here who, after I am in my grave, will recollect the warning which I am about to give—what I want to point out, and my last advice and warning is that you may depend upon it that you will have no change from a Monarchical to a Republican government without a revolution and bloodshed. During the last few years I

have devoted myself to literary pursuits, writing a good deal for reviews and papers, and engaging in controversies; and having made that assertion once, I was told by a distinguished literary man, who is one who believes that our political destiny is annexation, that there are plenty of instances of States changing their allegiance without revolution; and the instances given were actually instances that proved my own assertion to the contrary. You will scarcely believe that one of them was Alaska, an uninhabited country sold by Russia to the United States. Another instance was Cyprus, transferred to Great Britain only the other day. Another was Nice and Savoy, transferred to France by an arrangement between France and Italy, and another was Alsace and Lorraine—both the result of the war between France and Germany. Another instance was the Transvaal, which was annexed to Great Britain, and, strange to say, a very short time after this instance of peaceful transfer, the Transvaal was up in arms against Great Britain, and succeeded in getting its independence. Many will say, on this question of independence, that Great Britain won't interfere to prevent our independence. It is not a question of interfering. It is a question of the Canadian people themselves. You won't get the people to be unanimous in preferring a Republican to a Monarchical form of government. If a man is prejudiced in favour of a Republic, he has nothing to do but quietly to go to the other side of the line; and he will do that rather than fight at the risk of life and property and everything else. This is my firm conviction, and I know of no case in history where a change of political institutions has been effected without a revolution and bloodshed. Before concluding, I desire to ask you to drink a toast to the health of your worthy Chairman. In proposing this toast, I cannot help referring to his late father, who was taken from us comparatively recently, and with whom I had the most intimate associations while I conducted the *Pilot* newspaper, and I derived much benefit and assistance from his advice. With regard to Mr. Cramp himself, it is almost presumption in me to say one word to induce those who know him so well to do him honour. I have known him since early youth, and I have been, I hope, able to appreciate his business talents and his sound judgment, as well on public affairs as in those more immediately connected with our city of Montreal.

The health of the Chairman was enthusiastically received, and Mr. Cramp briefly returned thanks for the honor done him.

REV. A. J. BRAY in proposing the next toast, "Parliament," said:—An important toast has been committed to my charge, and I honestly mean it when I say I wish it had fallen into more competent hands. But I comfort myself with the reflection that the gentleman who will respond to the toast will more than make up for any shortcomings of mine. The toast is the Parliament of Canada, coupling with it the name of our friend, Mr. Thomas White. It is appropriate, I think, that on such an occasion as this we should remember our Parliament, for most of us in this City Club take some part in the political affairs of our country. We freely discuss the pros and cons of free trade and protection—of the ins and the outs and such like important matters to office holders and office seekers; and while I do not suppose that any man at any time gets converted by the arguments he hears, yet, I am certain, that it tends greatly to tone down the asperities of party debate when conducted in the good-natured gathering of a smoke room. At any rate, we learn that there is something to be said on the other side, and that is always worth learning—we learn also that our opponents are honest men, moved by impulses and convictions as profound and sincere as those which prompt us. One day in the week it is my, as it is of other clerics, duty to discuss that unknown quantity you call your soul. We conduct a moral diagnosis which amuses you. We offer medicine which you never dream of taking, but here we concern ourselves about what is practicable and knowable and understandable—that is to say, politics and commerce. For I am bound to say that very little theology gets talked, and for a simple reason, the Presbyterians know nothing of the Westminster Confession, the Episcopalians know nothing of the thirty-nine articles, and the Methodists—well they are so well represented, that I think I must allow that they understand a good deal about several things.

Well, as a club, it has come to pass that we are giving a complimentary dinner to our President, who deserves this and a great deal more at our hands. He has lived long and greatly in the service of his country; he has conducted many campaigns, fought many battles, sometimes gaining and sometimes losing; has committed many blunders, no doubt, and achieved many great successes we know, and now the grand old veteran, with eye undimmed and natural force unabated, looks back upon the well-fought fields of conquest and defeat. One thing is certain, that Sir Francis Hincks

has filled a large place in the history of this country; he has been identified with many great and important movements, and I hope the time will never come when Canadians will forget the men who have grown old in public service. We have heard from our guest to-night the story of a long political life, and I am sure that we have all learnt this fact, that a political life is at no time an easy life, and that the man who devotes himself to it must expect that with the triumphs will be mixed much bitterness and many sorrows. Our early Parliamentarians had the foundations of a nation to lay and the constitution to build with many examples before their eyes. They had old world Monarchies and new world Republics to choose from, and, best of all, dearest of all, grandest of all, as I think, our glorious British constitution, with its unquestionable charter of liberties. But, gentlemen, although they had all these before their eyes, I can very well understand that the political machine was not very easy to handle, and that they had to make experiments in government, and an occasional shift to meet an emergency. I can very well imagine that Parliamentary life in Canada, political life if you will, has been a rough and exciting game. At Confederation it was a battle of great intellects, and since Confederation it has been forced upon Parliament how to satisfy seemingly antagonistic interests. And, gentlemen, I am prepared to believe and to assert that the men who set their hands to this work were not prompted by a merely selfish love of notoriety or power. But what a mercy God gives us men with souls for such work. They are ambitious, of course, and I am glad of that.

A man without ambition is a man without a backbone—a poor, mean and measly thing, and not worth the salt he devours. Sir Francis Hincks was ambitious, and that is why he did so well. And depend upon it, gentlemen, you may take it as a rule that only the men deserving power get it. Accidents will occur, let nature do her best. Small men will sometimes be in big places; mean-souled men do, at times, impose upon society, but the fraud is soon discovered. I do not believe that Sir John Macdonald has been and is actuated by a merely vulgar love of distinction. I believe he has the public good at heart. I do not believe that Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie attend session after session of Parliament from "pure cussedness," and to turn the other party out of office. I believe that they are moved by nobler and purer motives. And I would say the same of

all the Parliament. Gentlemen, I want that we shall see the need and value of public spiritedness. And I think that we need not be ashamed of our Parliament as to its intellectual standing. I am not going to say that every member is a Solomon or a Daniel come to judgment, but I do mean to say that our Houses of Parliament are a credit to the country. We have not yet reached that stage in national development when it becomes a matter of course that there is a large leisured class. Our members have to leave their business or their practice to attend Parliament. We are not in a position to give scope and free play to the genius of a Pitt, a Walpole, a Gladstone or a Beaconsfield; our political arena is limited; there is not much demand for the broad, far-reaching arts of diplomacy, but we have statesmen worthy of the name; we have orators who would win distinction in any country, and I think we should cultivate the habit of saying good things of our Parliament. We are just beginning to realize how great our country is, how rich our resources; we see before us in rough outline a magnificent future; we have a superb climate, an incalculably rich North-West, magnificent waterways and railways, but almost everything depends upon the wisdom and careful enterprise of our Parliament. We are bound by silken cords to the greatest empire in the world. Her glory of history is ours; her liberties are ours; her great men are ours; her noble Queen is our Queen; we take her hand and call her mother; her flag floats proudly from Atlantic to Pacific coast; we want no better, we desire no less, and we say to Parliament, gentlemen, we have given you our vote; we love our Queen; we love our constitutions; we love our country; be wise, above prejudice or fear, and do what is right and good for Canada.

Mr. THOS. WHITE, M.P., said he was glad to be permitted to join with the members of the City Club in doing honour to the guest of the evening. His first acquaintanceship with Sir Francis Hincks was made thirty-one years ago, when he (Mr. White) made his first venture in journalism as the assistant editor of the *Quebec Gazette*, which, at the time, supported the Hincks-Morin administration; and although on some questions he differed from Sir Francis, he could honestly say that in the general policy of the country, in the measures which have been adopted, and which have promoted its prosperity, their opinions have been generally in accord. [Hear, hear.] Great changes had taken place in Canada since that time,

many of them the result of Parliamentary action. Then, the population of Canada was not greater than that of our leading Province to-day. The number of members of Parliament was less than that of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. There were, within the territory now comprising the Dominion, less than fifty miles of railway. Political discussion centred upon the Clergy Reserves, the Seigniorial Tenure, municipal institutions, and the question of education. These have all been settled; and to-day we have no dominant church recognized by the State; we have free lands, an educational system in which the rights of minorities are carefully guarded, and a municipal system under which the most absolute control over local affairs is given to the people. And all these changes, conferring great benefits upon all, have been brought about without doing injustice or wrong to any. [Cheers.] As to the Parliament of Canada, looking back upon the record of these thirty-odd years, the people had no reason to be otherwise than satisfied. In this new country, where the race for wealth is intense, and where, without any moneyed class from which our legislators may be chosen, it was something to say that no public man had ever been convicted, few had even in the heat of party controversy been charged, with prostituting their public position for personal gain. [Cheers.] On the whole, the system of Parliamentary government had worked well. It gave the opportunity for the most ample discussion of all questions of legislation as well as of administration; and, under it, both phases of political opinion had their full play. It was desirable to this end that the best men of both parties should be in Parliament. [Hear, hear.] Looking at the session which had just closed, no one who wished well of the country could do otherwise than regret the absence from the Opposition benches of many of the strong men who in former Parliaments had contributed so much to the discussions out of which public opinion is formed; and, although as a Conservative, and a supporter of the Government, the statement coming from him might appear a strange one, he had no hesitation in saying that he earnestly hoped, before another session, constituencies would be found for some of those who succumbed to the fortunes of war in June last [cheers]. He was aware that complaints were sometimes made that there was not independence enough in Parliament. There were those who mistook mere erratic voting, often the outcome of personal griefs, for independence. But

the general adoption of this kind of independence would make our system of party government impossible. Party government—which with the faults which were inseparable from any human system of government, was yet the best that he [Mr. White] knew of—required for its success leadership at the head, and discipline in the ranks. This did not necessarily involve a lack of independence. A member of Parliament had his responsibilities to the country, to his constituents, and to his own conscience; and where he believed the policy of his leaders, not on some mere incident of Parliamentary routine, but in the larger sense as affecting the country's interest, was such as he could not support, his duty was to inform his leaders of the fact, to induce them if possible to change the policy, and failing that to resign his seat, which he had obtained as a supporter of those leaders, and obtain from his constituents the right to prevent the success of the policy even at the risk of defeating the party. Where men made no pretence of belonging to either party, although he could not recollect any member who had been elected to Parliament except as belonging to one or other of the great parties, this rule had no application. They sacrificed their usefulness and influence to the so-called *role* of independence. [Applause]. He again expressed his satisfaction at being present on this occasion and earnestly trusted that Sir Francis Hincks would be spared many years to render, in the methods which are still open to him, further service to the country he had already served so well. [Loud cheers.]

MR. DONALD MACMASTER, Q.C., M.P., also responded to the toast. He said, after hearing the eloquent speech of his friend, Mr. White, who was an oracle with his own, and highly respected by the other, political party, it was not needful for him to say much in reply to the toast of Parliament. He saw, too, that the talented member for Montreal Centre was present, and though his name was not on the card for a speech, in consequence of his not being a member of the club, he knew that the assemblage would not forego, for their laws were not construed with the strictness of those of the Medes and Persians, the pleasure of hearing one so qualified to respond for Parliament as Mr. Curran. (Applause.) He (Mr. Macmaster) also saw among them a veteran Parliamentarian, one of Her Majesty's Privy Councillors, a man widely known for his experience in public life, and one too, who had taken an active part in those early struggles, in which the guest of the evening participated. He knew they all desired to hear the speech of

the Honourable Mr. McDougall, who being one of the founders of this confederation, had most appropriately been requested to propose the toast of "Our Dominion." Political life brought strange vicissitudes, and Mr. McDougall was now temporarily excluded from Parliament though not from public life. He joined heartily in Mr. White's hope for the return of men like Mr. McDougall at an early day. For these reasons he (Mr. Macmaster) thought the cause of parliamentary government was not needful of his aid. He had come to the banquet to add, by his presence, his humble testimony to the high regard in which the guest of the evening was held in this community and in this country. Sir Francis Hincks had that night spoken in vindication of his public career. He (Mr. Macmaster) thought that vindication was unnecessary. (Cheers.) His public career had found vindication in the pages of history, and the name of Sir Francis Hincks had been enduringly engrayed on the tablets of the country (applause) as a man of marked talent and enlightened statesmanship. While the history of our country survived the name of Sir Francis Hincks would survive with it. No human agency could eliminate it. His, too, was a long and brilliant service—his Parliamentary life commencing early in the forties. A natural leader of men he speedily rose to prominence among those whose names are indelibly associated with his. He was the contemporary of Lafontaine, Baldwin, Papineau, Sir Allan, MacNab and many others, nearly all of whom have paid the debt of nature and passed over to the majority. Under the first two he was Inspector General, an office that corresponds with that of Minister of Finance, and when his leaders determined to retire from public life our guest formed and led an administration for three years with signal success. These were days of battle and of difficulty, and keen were the conflicts that engaged the combatants. No matter what differences of opinion might exist as to the necessity of particular acts, he thought no period in our history was more fruitful of useful measures than the three years of the Premiership of Sir Francis Hincks. (Cheers.) His assumption of power marked the retirement of Mr. Lafontaine and his subsequent appointment to the Chief Justiceship of Lower Canada, an office that he adorned for many years; and it also marked the retirement to private life of one of Canada's truest patriots—the late Honourable Robert Baldwin. A survey of these times would demonstrate that Sir Francis Hincks was a prominent politician, when many of the men who have since reaped fame were in their political pupillage. While our guest

was Inspector General in the Lafontaine Baldwin Administration, Sir John A. Macdonald was just developing as lieutenant of Sir Allan MacNab, those remarkable talents for which he is conspicuous, and just as our guest was surrendering the Premiership after his great Parliamentary life was practically over, the present eminent Chief Justice of Quebec, Sir Aimee Dorion, and the late lamented Honourable Luther Hamilton Holton were just entering upon their Parliamentary careers. They came in time to see our guest succumb to an unnatural combination of forces alien alike to him and to each other. (Cheers.) What the subsequent life of Sir Francis has been as an Imperial Officer, and later as Finance Minister required no notice. He [Mr. Macmaster] welcomed the fresh testimony contained in the letters read by the Chairman of our guest's fidelity in duty to his country and his Sovereign.

Sir Francis Hincks had that evening not only referred to the past—he had referred to the future. He [Mr. Macmaster] refrained from entering upon the domain of uncertainty. What was passed was matter of history—what was future was matter of speculation—matter of opinion—and though he knew that all would receive with respect the views of Sir Francis Hincks either as to the past or the future—still we could not fail to discriminate between forecasts and history. One might say as Tennyson had beautifully said :

" I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see,"

But who so bold to add—

"Saw the vision of the world and all the wonders that would be?"

He (Mr. Macmaster) had noted with pleasure the remarks of Mr. White regarding the independence of parliament. In all matters that concerned the country's welfare in the future, it would be the highest function of parliament faithfully to reflect the opinions and safe-guard the interests of the Canadian people. (Cheers.) The guest of the evening could not object to this view, for in recognition of it Parliament advanced him to the highest post in the gift of the country. He also recognized under our system party government was unavoidable. It was not a perfect system—and many imagined that it could be purified by greater independence of the party leaders. He could not subscribe to so vague a doctrine, though he freely recognized a member of Parliament must intelligently fulfil his trust. Neither party was too perfect for improvement, and if a member did not find his

party good enough for him he should try to make it better, and not seek improvement in desertion or betrayal. No man was elevated to the leadership of one of the Dominion parties unless endowed with great ability and conspicuous virtues. Where no sacrifice of principle involved he thought it was the duty of a member of the House to follow the leader he had been elected to support, especially where he could say, as he (Mr. Macmaster) could, that his leader was worthy of trust. (Cheers.) The Chairman had referred to the guest as "*the Pilot*" who had guided the ship snug into port. The reference was appropriate and well-timed. But the guest was more than a pilot. He was also an "*Examiner*." He lived in a time when inquiry was less prized than it should be, but to this audience, which had listened to Mr. Bray's eloquent speech on Constitutional Government, and had, perhaps, attributed its origin in this country to a variety of causes, it should not be forgotten that years before Lord Durham's report recommending it—ay, too, and years before the Imperial Act of 1840 granting it—Sir Francis Hincks zealously and persistently advocated free institutions, in the *Examiner*, a paper whose motive and motto was "Responsible Government." (Applause.) He congratulated the young and the old on the fact that a man who had so faithfully devoted his life to his adopted, and our mother, country was spared to live with us, and that we might still derive the benefit of his experience and counsel. The Chairman had paraphrased a biblical reference to a Hebrew lawgiver, which the Rev. Mr. Bray had given in its integrity, in which it was substantially said the wisdom of the sage remained unabated with the lapse of years. When he (Mr. Macmaster) heard this reference his memory went back to another—to the time when dire quarrel separated Agamemnon and Achilles, the leaders of the Greeks; and Homer, the poetic historian, represents Nestor, the clear-toned speaker and venerable King of the Pylians rising to address the people and counselling peace—Nestor, who had, like our guest, lived through two generations of articulate-speaking men, and was now reigning with the third. (Cheers.) Our Nestor was now reigning, honoured and beloved, with the third generation of Canadian men; and as we knew his name would live in our history while its tablets shall survive, our cup brimmed over with joy at the hope and prospect that he will baffle "that wary old strategist—Time," and, excelling Nestor, reign, in health and vigour, with the fourth generation of his countrymen. (Loud cheering.)

MR. J. J. CURRAN, Q.C., M.P., who was also called upon to respond to the toast, returned thanks for the honour done him in asking him to speak on this occasion. He would not detain them long, however, as he knew they were all gentlemen of very lively imaginations, and he would prefer to allow them to imagine what a speech the member for Montreal Centre might make, when two ordinary electors of his division (Messrs. White and Macmaster) had so distinguished themselves. (Laughter and applause.) He would not speak of the Parliament of the Dominion, because he felt that he had only learned the way to get there but he would say that it afforded him more than ordinary pleasure to be present to do honour to one who was the pioneer of constitutional government in this country, and to whom this country owed, in a great measure, the progress and prosperity of days gone by. (Applause.) The resources and extent of the country that Parliament had been called upon to legislate for had been commented upon, and he could only hope that those now in Parliament, or who are destined to go there in future, would only follow the patriotic example of their honored guest, and, if they did, that they would certainly merit the approbation which was accorded to him, and of which any man might feel proud. He concluded by wishing Sir Francis long life and prosperity for the future. (Loud cheering.)

The CHAIRMAN then called upon the Hon. Wm. McDougall to propose the next toast—

“OUR DOMINION.”

HON. WILLIAM McDOUGALL, Q.C., in proposing the toast of “Our Dominion,” said that it was by chance that he was present among them, as he had been passing through the city from New York to his home at Ottawa. Hearing, while in the city, that the present demonstration was in contemplation, he felt, that though he had on former occasions crossed swords with the guest of the evening, that, admiring, as he had always done, his great talents, the grand services he had rendered to the country, the ability he had displayed as Inspector-General, his rescuing of the country’s finances from the deplorable condition into which they had fallen, that he could not, under these circumstances, leave the city without attending this re-union, and thus miss the opportunity of testifying his great regard for Sir Francis Hincks as a man, and as a

statesman with whom he was in accord. (Loud applause.) There were some questions, of course, on which they differed, but in many great and burning questions they were in accord. As a prominent instance, he might say that he entirely agreed with him on the boundary dispute between the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. He expressed the opinion that it was the duty of the members of Parliament to expedite the settlement of this burning question. He referred to the great services that Sir Francis Hincks had rendered to the country, and said that no one who wrote the history of Canada could omit the name of Sir Francis Hincks. (Applause.) He expressed the belief that party Government was beneficial to a country, as it was by opposition and discussion that the truth was elicited, and he, therefore, believed in it. When Confederation was first agitated in 1864, a great discussion ensued. He referred to the events of Confederation, and said that in 1850 he himself had urged such a scheme to bring about a settlement of the existing difficulties. He defended in the main the principle upon which the British North America Act was based, and said that it should be remembered that this was the Act of the people of Canada; they had been given the privileges of preparing their own constitution; the Imperial Parliament had put it into law, but had not changed one clause of it, and whether it was good or bad, the people of Canada were responsible for it. (Applause.) He was of opinion that the Act had worked well, and tended to the material and moral welfare of the country at large. He had, on his recent trip through the States, met many friends, and he had on all occasions told them that though the inhabitants of Canada were fewer in number than those of the United States, yet they possessed a great and extensive country, and that they hoped in a few years to be even equal in number to them. As regarded the question of Canadian independence, he could only say that he was a Canadian at heart, and he wished for no sudden change in the future. He hoped and he believed that this was the wish of the great majority of the people of Canada, that the country would remain as it was, under the protecting arm of Great Britain. Nothing was paid for this protection, nothing was lost to the country by it, and the moral effect of the connection was alone sufficient to protect the country. (Applause.) Looking at their position, therefore, it did seem to him that there was no other people who enjoyed a more liberal, a freer and a

more independent position than the people of Canada. (Applause.) He, therefore, failed to see why any change was necessary. (Applause.) Believing this, he would say let us develop within ourselves. He could not concur in the remarks of some of the speakers, that the members of a party should at all times follow their leaders, but believed that they should impress on and discuss with their leaders matters of importance, and said that Confederation had been brought about simply by the members of each party forgetting their past differences, and uniting together for the common good of their country. He concluded his remarks by again expressing the pleasure he felt at being present to do honour to their guest, and resumed his seat amid loud applause.

Mr. T. S. BROWN, whose experience of this country extended further back than any one present, in rising to respond, was greeted with cheers. He said that he stood before them eighty years old and blind; he had knocked about the streets for sixty-five years, and he had had somewhat of an eccentric career, like a knight errant dashing into every skirmish, without seeking companionship or asking reward. His account had been roughly kept; the entries sometimes in gold and sometimes in greenbacks; bad marks for a good day's work, and good marks for nothing at all. The public had made up the account, and with the greatest good nature in the world had brought down the balance in his favour, or he would not have been here to-night. He stood here as the representative of the old Loyalists of the American Revolution. When he was a child at St. Andrew's, New Brunswick, his grandmother could tell him that her grandfather had been a Royal Governor, that her uncle had been a Royal Governor, and that her cousin had been a Royal Governor. Her cousin, Sir John Wentworth, was the last Royal Governor of New Hampshire, and was then Governor of Nova Scotia, and her brother had died Governor of Grenada. His family had been in the country 200 years, and were, therefore, not foreigners. (Applause.) He was himself thoroughly American. The Loyalists, as they all knew, came into the Dominion and lined the frontier from the Bay of Fundy to Lake Erie. If they were not more numerous it was because the King was unfair in drawing the line. King George III. did not draw the line in the right place; he gave the fine coat of many colours to his wicked and rebellious children, and gave his good children little more than the collar. (Laughter and applause.)

The line should have been drawn from Portsmouth, N.H., to Lake Ontario, and then along through the waters to Detroit, and thence straight to the Pacific, leaving us the boundary at the 42nd instead of the 46th degree. But he might tell them that the good old King was not altogether at fault. He instructed his Commissioner at the Treaty of Paris in 1783 to demand the Ohio as the southern boundary of Canada; but the French instructed the Spaniards to demand all the country west of the Alleghanies. "No, no," said the British Commissioner, "if we give it to Spain, Spain will give it to France, and then we shall be back where we were 24 years ago." The Americans were cute; they closed a secret bargain with the British Commissioner, to the disgust of the other Powers, and that made the boundary where it is. King George, thinking that the Americans would quarrel and never want the land back, kept possession for about twelve years of the southern shores of the lakes and country westward, but the Americans, getting united and saucy, said "You are trespassing, and you must give up that land," and he withdrew his posts. We had now a country from the Atlantic to the Pacific; it was what, in geometry, is called a line (that is all length, without any breadth). But length was of no consequence now. Fifty years ago Quebec was, by the average of fast sailing vessels, 35 days from Liverpool; but when our friends of the Syndicate finish their work, which they were doing most diligently, it would not require half that time to proceed from Liverpool to Vancouver Island; therefore we must hereafter count not by miles but by hours, and consider that the extremities of the Dominion were not far off. [Applause.] He also represented at this gathering those great and glorious French-Canadians who fought the battle from 1818 to 1837, that had enabled us to have a Dominion. Fifty-five years ago (in 1828) he became very intimate with Mr. Papineau and Mr. Viger, and all the heads of the Canadian party at that time. He acted with them for about nine years, up to 1837. They had been charged with doing nothing, and he was asked what they did. There were 300 Bills now to be found in Quebec that were thrown out by the Legislative Council of that day, which showed, at all events, that they tried to do something. (Applause.) But he would say that they did not keep a tin-shop or descend to tinkering. They were shrewd men, and they saw that "right" was the only strong thing in the world, and small as the field was there was sublimity in their pertinacity and determination

to have it. But it was hoisted to the masthead above their reach; the halyards were cut and it came down "by the run," to be taken up by their honored guest and his friends in 1843, when they placed our rights upon the pedestal of public opinion, where it still remains as our palladium. (Applause.) He had said that our Dominion was only a line, but it was a very long line. In the Lower Provinces we had immense coal beds (and coal mines are now the wealth of the world), which would supply the whole Atlantic Coast. Then we came to old Quebec, rather worn out, it was true, but a little deep ploughing would bring us up. And then we wanted a better understanding with our French Canadians; they were in the majority—six to one against us—but nevertheless we had the moral power, and if we chose to exert it we would have an immense influence in the Province of Quebec. As regarded the City of Montreal, he would say: "I have one country, and the country is, first, Montreal." (Applause.) Montreal should be one of the first cities of the world; we had a water-course to the ocean for the largest ships that float, and we had behind us an inland water-course to the centre of the Continent, such as could be found nowhere else in the world. This central point should be made a great city, and he thought the young men must make it so. There was a race rising up who were capable of following in the tracks of those who have gone before and to do far more than they had done. (Applause.) It was upon the young merchants that the progress and prosperity of Montreal depended, and it was upon the progress and prosperity of Montreal that the prosperity of the Dominion depended. In Ontario we had one of the finest Provinces on the face of the globe. Beyond Lake Superior there were 100,000 square miles of land, which Sir Francis Hincks says should belong to Ontario, and Sir John Macdonald says he is not quite sure. (Applause.) We know little about it, except that there was a railroad of about 400 miles in length running through it, and that there was a place called Rat Portage, but in an area that is as much as England and Scotland put together there must be immense wealth in lumber, minerals and agricultural lands. This land must soon have its population; its western limit was the 95th meridian, which is exactly the middle of the Continent, Halifax being the 65th and the Pacific Coast the 125th meridian. Therefore we only get half-way through the country when we get to Winnipeg. Now, west of this, before the Rocky Mountains were reached, there were

150,000,000 of acres of farm land, or four times the area of the inhabited part of Ontario. He had seen Ontario rise from 100,000 to 2,000,000, and the same density of population would give 8,000,000 of inhabitants in this section, and population filled up very rapidly now-a-days. This 150,000,000 of acres of land at \$1 an acre, represented \$150,000,000; or the same quantity at \$30 an acre represented \$4,500,000,000, with all the houses and animals and other valuables upon it. (Applause.) Gold fields were not so good, he said, as grain fields, but they were more attractive; already a great amount of gold had been scratched out of the Rocky Mountain range, and there was plenty more there if we dig for it. The coast of British Columbia, four hundred miles in length, was a great maritime site, and Vancouver's Island was large enough for two or three such kingdoms as kings fought about in olden times; and, there again we had coal beds to supply the Pacific Coast in the same manner as our eastern coal beds supply the Atlantic Coast. There is mineral wealth from one end of our line to the other. On the north shore of Lake Superior, and under those barren looking rocks, there was silver enough to build a pyramid as big as the pyramid of Gizeh—a big calculation, but remembering what little figures they counted with when he was a boy, and the big ones used now, he was not startled by a million of cubic feet of silver, weighing 600,000,000 pounds, in coined coin dollars worth \$10,000,000,000, or twice and a-half the debt of Great Britain. All this might be extracted within one century. We were attached to England by a stout hawser; the English end was made fast, and we had the loose end that we could "pay out" or "pull in," as we please. The English smiled good-humoredly, because they thought if they commanded us to make it fast, and began pulling, somebody might cut it. We were the most loving and dutiful children so long as they allowed us to have our own way in everything; then we were sure that should we get into a scrape, they would get us out, and should there ever come a tightness in the money market, it was a good thing to have a rich uncle over the way to endorse for us. If we were loyal under such circumstances, as Canon Carmichael would say, "Small blame to us." (Laughter and applause.) But they must remember that nations, as well as railroads, when competition grew too strong, instead of fighting, amalgamated, and should the time ever come when, after bridging Vancouver Island to the mainland,

cutting a ship channel from the bottom of the Hudson's Bay to the Atlantic, and a winter passage from Baffin's Bay to the Mackenzie River, we would get a little weary and troubled about the frontier line, we can telephone to Washington, "This boundary line is a nuisance; you have Custom House men thicker than telegraph poles, and it is a botheration to everybody. Can you not abate it?" "Not one cent," is the reply; "if you don't like the line wipe it out." "Can't afford it," say we. "What do you want?" is the reply. "A great deal," say we. "How much?" "Well, we want you to take our public debt." "All right." "Give us fifty years' freedom from taxes." "Certainly." "We have got a lot of old pensioners, and we want to provide for some more." "Very good; we can take on a few thousand." "We want all the Customs duties paid." "All right." "We are willing that the mail bags be marked 'U.S.' instead of 'V.R.,' but in everything else we wish to remain just as we are and do just as we please." "All right; do you want anything more?" "No, not to-night." "Well, wipe out the line then." They all understood what better terms meant, and they could at any time send delegates to Washington. They would find plenty of fellows there to log-roll with them, and they could get anything they pleased. Now, he would ask the honored guest of the evening, whether, considering all these things, the £300,000 paid to the Hudson's Bay Company did not effect the grandest land speculation the world ever saw. [Applause.] He said, in conclusion, that none could think more highly of their honoured guest, Sir Francis Hincks, than he did, but his education had been mercantile, and instead of repeating long things they generally wrote "ditto." Now, Mr. Macmaster had said a great deal admirably and not one word too much, and therefore he would say, as everyone at the table would say, "Ditto, ditto, ditto." [Loud applause.]

#### "THE PROFESSIONS."

MR. EDWARD MURPHY thought the toast he was about to propose, viz., "The Professions," was one beyond his scope; he would, therefore, without any preface, offer the toast, which having been duly honoured,

MR. W. H. KERR, Q.C.—Mr. Chairman, Sir Francis Hincks and Gentlemen: At this hour of the evening, the truth of the old adage "Brevity is the soul of wit" will be recognized without difficulty,

and, therefore, I intend so far as brevity is concerned, to be exceedingly witty. I may, perhaps, be permitted to say that no one here can claim a longer acquaintance with our distinguished guest than I, as when a boy at college in Kingston in 1843, I had the honor of meeting him at dinner at Mr., afterwards Sir Dominick Daly's.

It affords me, therefore, very great pleasure to take part in this evening's entertainment, and to join with those here present in doing honour to Sir Francis Hincks.

In this Province the greatest possible difference exists between the public and private utterances of the men one meets. It would almost seem as if they were afraid to breathe in public that which they boldly and loudly assert in private. Can it be cowardice?

To me, but an onlooker at the game of politics as played in this Dominion, it is a matter of the greatest gratification that testimony of such high class has been given this evening in favor of the integrity and disinterestedness of the public men of Canada. I had, I must confess, until I heard that unimpeachable evidence, been a firm believer in the theory that some of our politicians, aye, even some of our so-called statesmen, were not to be regarded as entirely disinterested in their attention to the affairs of the country. But after what I have heard this evening, I am forced to believe that all the charges of corruption fulminated against our leading public men and scattered broadcast in the newspaper press throughout the Dominion are utterly and entirely false. To me it is most refreshing thus to be convinced that hitherto I have been in error on this subject, and I hasten to make my public recantation, professing henceforward the belief that the public men of Canada are the most self-sacrificing and purest patriots in the world, ready at a moment's notice to leap, like Marcus Curtis of old, into any gulf or opening which may appear at Ottawa suitable for such a sacrifice.

I admit, Mr. Chairman, that whilst listening to the eloquent words of those who have preceded me this evening we at times were almost deluded into believing that Canada was the true Utopia—recognize the mighty positions occupied here by politics and trade, and the happiness and self-satisfaction they secure to those who embrace them as pursuits; but I may, perhaps, be permitted to observe, in the most humble manner, that there are other matters which, though of infinitely minor importance, should commend themselves to the attention of the people of this Province. There are a few abuses

still lingering in our body corporate, the contemplation of which brings one back from Utopian dreams to stern realities. Regard the educational statistics of Quebec, and behold one of the most uneducated populations in the civilized world. Look at the Legislature, so engaged in quarrelling over the distribution of the spoils as to be unable to attend to the pressing wants of the Province. Investigate the condition of our Bench, and realize the position of a country where Judgeships are the counters with which the leaders of a party pay supporters, whose only claim to the dignity conferred is service rendered in the black mire of politics.

But, sir, it is a matter of congratulation that wrong is, after all, but short-lived. We see the eternal principle of right illustrated in the case of our distinguished guest; the strong prejudices which at one time obscured from public recognition his great services to the Canadian people have disappeared, and his name, engraved on the tablets of history, will go down to posterity as one who deserved well of his adopted country.

As the best answer to the toast, permit me, sir, in conclusion to quote the words of the Lord Chancellor of England, which, pregnant as they are with truth, I commend to the earnest attention of all who hear me:—

“Liberty and Law are the two great pillars of the State; each is absolutely and indispensably necessary for the perfection of the other. Without liberty, law would easily degenerate into an arbitrary system—I might almost say an intolerable tyranny. On the other hand, no man’s liberties would be safe, either as to his person, his political rights, or his private rights of property, if law were not respected, independently administered, and loyally obeyed.

Mr. E. CARTER, Q.C., in reply, thanked the assembly for the honour done him in calling upon him to represent the legal profession. “The Professions,” he thought, very properly followed such toasts as that of “The Parliament” and “The Dominion.” He spoke of the difficulties presented by the mixed law of this Province, which was largely to be credited with the “law’s delays.” Having mentioned several leading men of the country who had been trained in the law, he said it must afford the greatest satisfaction to all present to do honour to the guest of the evening, especially as all classes of the community were well represented.

Mr. C. A. GEOFFRION, Q.C., having been loudly called for, said that though the only Frenchmen present they were all Canadians, and he hoped the race divisions that had so long existed would soon disappear. He had listened with pleasure to the reminiscences of the French-Canadians by Mr. T. S. Brown, and although the French in this country were originally a conquered race, all that feeling was long since dead, and he had great pleasure in thinking that all were fast becoming simply Canadians. (Applause.)

**"TRADE AND COMMERCE."**

Mr. HAGUE said: In proposing the toast of the Trade and Commerce of the Dominion, I desire to preface it by a few words of testimony with regard to the great practical ability which Sir Francis Hincks has displayed on various occasions when in charge of the finances of the Dominion. This was particularly the case in 1870, when differences of opinion had arisen, apparently irreconcilable as to the terms on which the charters of the banks should be renewed. The Government of the day was in considerable perplexity; many of their own followers were entirely opposed to the policy they proposed to pursue. Sir Francis Hincks, on returning from the West Indies, and assuming the office of Finance Minister, devoted his special attention to the solution of this knotty and intricate question, which involved wide and diversified interests, and by his sound experience and practical judgment, was able to suggest a scheme which Parliament accepted as satisfactory, and embodied in legislation. That settlement was of the highest possible value in developing the great resources of Ontario, and in benefiting the commerce of the whole of Canada. With regard to this commerce it is hardly possible for those who have recently arrived in the country to conceive the limited extent to which it had attained previous to the introduction of railways. The old Provinces of Canada occupied a narrow strip of territory to which it had been confined by the astute diplomacy of our immediate neighbours of the United States. It was, indeed, supposed at this time, that they had obtained by such diplomacy all that was worth having of this portion of the continent. Events have proved otherwise. North of line 45, north of the great lakes, and north of line 49 in the North-West, we have proved by experience that a magnificent territory exists. But the opening up of this territory in the early stages was a very slow and laborious business. La Salle and Champlain, two great explorers, whose names are worthy

to be ranked with that of Columbus, had opened up to the view of mankind immense regions in the interior of this continent; but of actual settlement and cultivation little, indeed, was done.

Canada then was largely a region of great forests, of rivers whose navigation was impeded, and of stretches of country in which roads, bridges, cultivation and civilization were entirely unknown.

To give you an idea of the poverty of the Province of Ontario in those days, I may state that when the Bank of Upper Canada had obtained its charter, with power to commence business as soon as \$40,000 of capital was paid in, a period of twelve months elapsed before it was possible to collect, throughout the whole Province, even three-fourths of this small sum. It is a fact that the balance had to be borrowed from the military chest of the day, in order to enable the bank (which was the sole bank in existence in Upper Canada at this time) to commence business. By dint of hard labour and unexampled perseverance, considerable progress had been made up to the time when railways were first introduced into the country. From that date, the progress of Canada has been rapid and unexampled.

To enable you to judge of what that progress has been, I ask your attention to the following statistics of the banks. These statistics, I may mention, are all founded upon the system of returns which was initiated, nearly thirty years ago, by the distinguished guest of the evening, when holding the office of Inspector-General. The comparison includes simply the old Provinces of Canada, viz., Ontario and Quebec, both at that time and since:—

|                                                                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| In 1858 the paid-up capital of the banks was.....                                 | \$ 17,588,000 |
| In 1883 it had reached.....                                                       | 54,700,000    |
| In 1858 the circulation was only.....                                             | 7,800,000     |
| In 1883 it had increased (including Dominion notes) to.....                       | 35,500,000    |
| In 1858 the deposits were.....                                                    | 9,100,000     |
| In 1883 they had risen to.....                                                    | 133,000,000   |
| including deposits in the Post Office and other savings banks and loan companies. |               |
| In 1858 the discounts reached.....                                                | \$ 30,100,000 |
| In 1883 they had risen to.....                                                    | 160,000,000   |
| In 1850 the whole volume of exports and imports was.....                          | 40,000,000    |
| In 1868 it had increased to.....                                                  | 130,000,000   |
| In 1882 it was about.....                                                         | 210,000,000   |

The trade of Canada in 1881 was larger in proportion to population than that of the United States, while our shipping, again in proportion to population, was *more than four times as large*.

These figures indicate a progress of which any country might be proud.

So much with regard to the past; but the future is no less promising. We are now opening up a new territory of magnificent proportions, containing enormous areas of fertile and practically inexhaustible land. During the few years in which the North-West has been settled, it has progressed at a rate even more marvellous than that of the older Provinces referred to. And being a prairie country, we have reason to expect a rate of progress in the future, which will throw everything previously experienced into the shade.

Our children, in this Canada of ours, have a magnificent heritage. We have a political constitution that combines all the advantages of a Monarchy and a Republic. We have well-administered laws; a Government far more amenable to public opinion than that of our neighbours of the United States. We have retained and perpetuated so much of the monarchical and social conditions of the old land, as is needful to give solidity and permanence to our freedom. And there can scarcely be a doubt that, in this northern portion of the American Continent, we shall carve out a destiny for ourselves that will place us in the very front rank of the nations of the earth.

I now ask you to join me in drinking the toast: "The Trade and Commerce of the Dominion."

Mr. F. W. HENSHAW, President of the Board of Trade, in responding, said the toast which had been so ably proposed by Mr. Hague, "The Trade and Commerce of Canada," was one that never failed to find place on occasions like the present. It was one so wide in its scope that it was difficult, in speaking to it, to prevent oneself from trenching upon grounds that should be occupied by speakers to other and kindred sentiments, so intimately connected was it with banking, agriculture and manufactures. The commercial progress of Canada during the last fifty years had, in proportion to the number of its inhabitants, far outstripped that of any other country, and it was perhaps fortunate that occasions like the present were once in a while offered, where information, valuable to ourselves and important to the outside world in its trade relations with us, might be more extensively imparted. To give anything like a

history of the growth of the trade and commerce of Canada since the time when Montreal was merely an outport of Quebec in 1832, when the channel between those two cities was scarcely 14 feet in depth, would be impossible at this time, but he would give them a few figures and facts which would bear out his statement that, in proportion to the size of our population, we had within the last fifty years outstripped in trade and commerce any other country. It was very gratifying to be able to speak of these things in the presence of one, who, for nearly forty years, had been so closely identified with the trade, commerce and government of this country; and might they not say that much of the prosperity of this country which we were so proud of to-day, was attributable to those wise statesmen who had successively through this long period down to the present time guarded the interests of trade and promoted commercial intercourse beyond our borders. [Applause.]

The Imports at the Port of Montreal, had, in 1835, been \$3,543,600; in 1840, \$5,428,263; in 1845, \$8,515,324; in 1850, \$7,835,775; in 1855, \$15,120,321; in 1860, \$16,019,584; in 1865, \$24,301,702; in 1870, \$31,524,861; in 1875, \$35,106,948; in 1880, \$42,412,648, and in 1882, \$50,527,497.

Our Exports had been in 1835, \$1,154,270; in 1840, \$1,593,711; in 1845, \$2,652,450; in 1850, \$2,053,874; in 1855, \$2,692,086; in 1860, \$6,257,950; in 1865, \$6,730,564; in 1870, \$19,027,153; in 1875, \$19,935,228; in 1880, \$32,245,941, and, in 1882, \$26,503,001.

This had, he remarked, been in Imports a gain of 1,400 per cent., and, in Exports, of about 2,400 per cent. He went on to speak of the tonnage and class of vessels which had visited this port from 1835 to the present, which the following tabulated statement will best illustrate:—

|      | No.<br>Steam.                                                                        | Tonnage. | No.<br>Sail. | Tonnage. | Total<br>No. | Total<br>Tonnage |       |           |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1835 | (There were no separate figures<br>previous to 1855, but all<br>were sailing ships.) |          |              |          | 108          | 22,873           |       |           |
| 1840 |                                                                                      |          |              |          | 137          | 31,266           |       |           |
| 1845 |                                                                                      |          |              |          | 210          | 51,848           |       |           |
| 1850 |                                                                                      |          |              |          | 211          | 46,156           |       |           |
| 1855 | 6                                                                                    | 5,545    | 197          | 48,454   | 203          | 53,999           |       |           |
| 1860 | 37                                                                                   | 45,385   | 222          | 76,174   | 259          | 121,359          |       |           |
| 1865 | 63                                                                                   | 78,015   | 295          | 74,928   | 358          | 152,943          |       |           |
| 1870 | 144                                                                                  | 133,912  | 536          | 182,934  | 680          | 316,846          | 4,771 | 626,550   |
| 1875 | 256                                                                                  | 255,435  | 386          | 130,677  | 642          | 386,112          | 6,345 | 819,476   |
| 1880 | 354                                                                                  | 475,741  | 356          | 152,530  | 710          | 628,271          | 6,178 | 811,410   |
| 1882 | 379                                                                                  | 475,679  | 259          | 79,013   | 648          | 554,692          | 6,489 | 1,044,380 |
|      |                                                                                      |          |              |          |              |                  | 5,947 | 848,780   |

## INLAND CRAFT.

In 1882, the rates of steam tonnage to sailing was as 86 to 14, while the total of inland and sea-going vessels was 6,595, of 1,403,472 tons. Another marked sign of improvement had been, that although in 1867, shortly after the ship channel had been deepened to 20 feet, the wharfage accommodation at Montreal was: with 20 feet of water, 1.39 miles; under 20 feet, 1.78 miles; making a total of 3.17 miles. In June, 1882, with 25 feet of water there were 16,438 feet; with 20 feet of water there were 2,391 feet; from 10 to 20 feet of water there were 5,960 feet, or 24,899 feet in all, equivalent to 4.7 miles. The present revetment wall had been commenced in 1832, when Montreal was merely an outport of Quebec, and the channel in Lake St. Peter began in 1843. The Lachine Canal opened in 1825 with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 feet of water, and to compare facts with the present condition, formed, indeed, ground for wonderment and congratulation. But in addition to all this, the census figures of Montreal and Hochelaga revealed an astonishing advancement in our manufacturing industries. In 1871, the capital invested in them had amounted to \$12,078,664; the number of hands, 22,774; the total value of their yearly wages, \$5,653,205; the yearly amount of the raw material consumed, \$20,867,492; and of the product, \$35,803,920. In 1881, the capital invested amounted to \$35,233,693; the number of hands employed, 35,290; the yearly wages earned, \$9,395,337; the value of raw material consumed, \$33,994,749, and of the goods produced, \$65,131,181. This was surely satisfactory progress. [Cheers.] The toast proposed by Mr. Hague, and which he (Mr. Henshaw) had had the opportunity to respond to, was one that he hoped would ever be cordially received; for nothing could be more to the interest of Canadians than prosperity to the trade and commerce of Canada. [Applause.]

Mr. J. N. GREENSHIELDS then rose to propose the toast of "The Press," and spoke of the good feeling and harmony prevalent throughout the country, which he said was due very largely to the influence of the Press.

Mr. E. K. GREENE also spoke to the toast, which, having been duly drunk,

Mr. RICHARD WHITE, in reply, said that the pleasantest duty that in his memory had ever devolved upon the press of this city would undoubtedly be that of recording this evening's entertainment. He would not say more owing to the lateness of the hour.

Mr. JOHN F. NORRIS, of the *Herald*, also spoke in reply to the toast, after which

The CHAIRMAN gave the "Next Merry Meeting," and

Rev. A. J. BRAY proposed the health of the Chairman, with a vote of thanks for the admirable manner in which he had presided and carried out the programme.

The gathering then dispersed.